

REMARKS

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 6, 8-13, 16, 18-20, 23-26, 29-36, and 39-46 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukuda (U.S. Patent No. 6,549,667) in view of Gobert (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0080052 A1).

Independent claims have been amended to facilitate prosecution. More specifically, independent claims have been amended to recite “determining whether there are more columns or rows of zeros in the block of transform coefficients by using zero pattern information.” This amendment is supported throughout the Specification and Drawings. For example, “A determination at 505 whether there are more columns or rows of zeros is also optional. .. In one example, the system can be configured to perform one-dimensional inverse transform operations on a subset of the total number of columns using zero pattern information. One-dimensional inverse transform operations are then performed on all the rows without regard to zero pattern information.” (page 13, lines 24-31; Figure 5)

None of the references cited by the Examiner either alone or in combination teach or suggest “determining whether there are more columns or rows of zeros in the block of transform coefficients.” Furthermore, none of the cited references either alone or in combination teach or suggest “performing one-dimensional inverse transforms on a subset of the total number of rows in the block of transform coefficients before performing one-dimensional inverse transforms on all of the columns in the block of transform coefficients when it is determined that there are more rows of zeros than columns of zeros.” That is, inverse transforms are performed on a subset of the rows before inverse transforms are performed on all of the columns.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
Weaver Austin Villeneuve & Sampson LLP

/Audrey Kwan/
G. Audrey Kwan
Reg. No. 46,850